

Message Text

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51 S

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /067 W

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O P 041230Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6164

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, SF, BC, ZA

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN VISIT TO BOTSWANA

REF: LUSAKA 0027

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN HAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFUL TWO-DAY VISIT TO BOTSWANA AND DEPARTED LATE MORNING OF JAN 4 FOR PORT ELIZABETH MEETING WITH VORSTER AND BACK TO LUSAKA. END SUMMARY.

2. SUCCESSFUL CALLAGHAN VISIT TO BOTSWANA WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY MEETINGS WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE AND PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA, DINNER HOSTED BY MOGWE, AND WIND-UP PRESS CONFERENCE SHORTLY BEFORE TAKEOFF AT ABOUT 1130 JAN 4 FOR JOHANNESBURG AND PORT ELIZABETH MEETING WITH VORSTER.

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3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MOGWE CALLED CALLAGHAN MEETING WITH

VORSTER A "GOOD THING" AND RECOMMENDED THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BE HELD SOON ON RHODESIA WITH CALLAGHAN IN THE CHAIR. HE SUGGESTED THAT LONDON WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE SITE FOR SUCH A MEETING.

4. IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD BE RETURNING TO LUSAKA TONIGHT (JANUARY 4) AFTER VORSTER MEETING, BUT CALLAGHAN, HIMSELF, SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHO HE WOULD BE SEEING THERE. HE NOTED THAT CONVERSATIONS ON POSSIBLE FURTHER CONTACTS IN LUSAKA WERE BEING HELD WITH ZAMBIANS AND HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY RESULTS AT THE TIME OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

5. BOTH RADIO BOTSWANA AND BRITISH EMBASSY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT A MEETING TOOK PLACE JANUARY 3 WITH RHODESIAN MINORITY LEADER TIM GIBBS.

6. COMMENT: CALLAGHAN VISIT HAS BEEN PLAYED IN GENERALLY LOW-KEY HERE PARTLY BECAUSE NEARLY ALL SENIOR LEVEL GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND OFFICIALS REMAIN ON CHRISTMAS LEAVE OUT OF THE CITY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF ONLY FLEW IN THIS MORNING (JANUARY 4) FOR MEETING WITH CALLAGHAN, LEAVING MOGWE TO HOST SMALL DINNER LAST NIGHT. BRITISH ALSO TELL US PRESIDENT VETOED ANODYNE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ALONG THE LINES OF THE ONE RELEASED ON DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA. WE WILL BE SEEKING DURING COURSE OF THE WEEK TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS OF THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN CALLAGHAN AND HIS BOTSWANA HOSTS.
BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO00023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-0642
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750178/aaaacqgj.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LUSAKA 0027
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALLAGHAN VISIT TO BOTSWANA
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, SF, BC, ZA, (CALLAGHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006